(c) Approximately 300 acres of land have been identified by the State Government for the purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) No decision has been taken on this aspect so far.

**Exodus of Army Officers**

1889. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the possible exodus of large scale army officer after the implementation of the Pay Commission report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether technically efficient officers are planning to quit their jobs in view of more attractive and better facilities in other fields; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is no information with the Government suggesting a large scale exodus of Army Officers after the implementation of the Pay Commission report.

As per available records, the percentage of technically qualified Army Officers who have applied for premature retirement from Army after submission of the report of Pay Commission is less than one per cent of their actual cadre strength. The percentage of those who have been granted premature retirement is still less. It can not, therefore, be concluded that a large number of technically qualified people are planning to leave the Army.

The existing rules provide for premature retirement from service under certain conditions such as supersession, compassionate reasons of a personal nature, etc. However, each request for premature retirement is examined in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time and ample precautions are taken to ensure that the interests of the services are not jeopardised or compromised.

*[Translation]*

**Expenditure on Ports**

1890. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge expenditure which were incurred at various ports in the country in the last years have not been fruitful;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred on each port, separately;

(c) whether the attention of the Government on the above unnecessary expenditure has been drawn through the reports of Comptroller and Auditor General;

(d) if so, the directions issued by the Government from time to time to check such expenditures; and

(e) the names of ports and plants which have not been utilised till March, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Reports have been received from the Comptroller and Auditor General regarding alleged infructuous expenditure in some cases and these are under examination in consultation with the concerned major ports.

(e) The details of the utilisation of the plan outlays by various Major Ports during 1996-97 is given in the attached statement.

***Statement***

*Details of Utilization of Plan Outlays by various Major Ports during 1996-97.*

(Rs. in Crores)

| S. No. | Name of the Port | Approved Outlay for 1996-97 | Expenditure incurred | % utilisation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Calcutta/Haldia | 42.50 | 26.21 | 63 |
| 2. | Mumbai | 74.60 | 89.95 | 121 |
| 3. | JL Nehru | 68.00 | 49.88 | 73 |
| 4. | Chennai | 115.00 | 96.57 | 84 |
| 5. | Cochin | 7.00 | 7.56 | 108 |
| 6. | Vizag | 45.00 | 42.79 | 95 |
| 7. | Kandla | 35.00 | 15.84 | 45 |
| 8. | Mormugao | 12.50 | 18.51 | 148 |
| 9. | Paradip | 107.00 | 62.01 | 58 |
| 10. | New Mangalore | 40.00 | 56.61 | 142 |
| 11. | Tuticorin | 30.00 | 18.30 | 61 |
| | Total | 576.60 | 484.23 | 84 |

**Air Facility to Neemach in Madhya Pradesh**

1891. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made by the Aviation Club and other people's representatives of Neemach in Madhya Pradesh to link this place with air facility;

(b) whether the CRPF has a big centre at Neemach;

(c) whether airport facility is occasionally available at Neemach and generally CRPF, Government and other planes land over there; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The airstrip at Neemach is controlled by the Indian Air Force and no scheduled air services are being operated to this airport.

(d) Airports Authority of India has no plans for developing passenger facilities at the airport.

*[English]*

**Action Against Officers**

1892. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2278 dated March 10, 1997 and state :

(a) the details of officers who have been transferred from their places of posting before initiating action;

(b) the details of action taken against each;

(c) whether action has been initiated/taken against some more officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges levelled against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that one officer was transferred from his place of posting before initiating action under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees. Disciplinary Action has been initiated against the concerned officer under the rules.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary action has been initiated against three more officers after consultation with Central Vigilance Commission for various acts of misconduct relating to irregularities in appointments and violation of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees.

**Sale of Arms by Blacklisted Firm through Intermediary**

1893. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Swedish arms manufacturer 'Bofors', which is blacklisted in India after a 1986 bribery case, is defying the ban by selling through an intermediary as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether some components were procured by Ordnance Factory Board from some firm of Sweden; and

(d) if so, the particulars of the firm and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is an embargo on M/s Bofors till they yield the names and full details of the recipients of the commission in the Supply Contract for the FH 77B Gun System and ammunition and return the amount. The embargo continues.

2. Components worth approximately Rs. 10.16 crores were contracted by the Ordnance Factory Board during the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 from M/s Mipro AB of Sweden for the manufacture of weapon and ammunition. It had been confirmed by the Indian Embassy in Sweden that M/s MIPRO AB did not have any links with M/s Bofors.

**Free Tickets to companions of Member of AI**

1894. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has offered free tickets to companions of members of Air India's elite club-the Maharajah;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries who has taken advantage of the scheme;

(c) whether an agreement (informal or formal) has been reached between all the major carriers to stop discounting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the justification of continuing the free air tickets to companion's scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes Sir. Air India offered companion-free tickets to members of the Maharajah Club, subject to their purchasing a full fare ticket to any destination on Air India's network in any class.

(b) During the period from May 12 to June 30, 1997, 129 beneficiaries have taken advantage of the scheme.

(c) and (d) No formal or informal agreement has been reached between the major carriers to stop discounting totally. However, all the airlines feel the need for improvement in yields and reduction in discounting levels.

(e) The companion-free schemes are basically Sales Promotion Schemes and are operative for short periods.